

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Parties and Interested Persons

FROM: R. S. Titus, Deputy King County Hearing Examiner

DATE: March 26, 1998

RE: Current Use Taxation file no. E97CT126  
Peter J. Van Voast, Applicant

The conclusions and recommendations in the attached Examiner's Report and Recommendation are revised in order to accurately reflect the findings of fact, resulting in a current use value of 20% of market value. Because this report revision changes the substantive outcome of this case, the appeal date must also be revised as indicated on page 5.

RST:vam

E97CT126 MEM

March 26, 1998

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER**  
**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Seattle, Washington 98164  
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**REVISED:**  
**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division File No. **E97CT126**  
Proposed Ordinance No. **98-089**

Open Space Taxation (Public Benefit Rating System) Application of  
**PETER J. VAN VOAST**  
5336 – 347<sup>th</sup> Place SE, Fall City, WA 98024

Location: 5336 – 347<sup>th</sup> Place Southeast, Fall City, Washington

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Department's Preliminary:	Approve, subject to conditions
Department's Final:	Approve, subject to conditions
Examiner:	Approve, subject to conditions

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

The Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Preliminary Report on Item No. E97CT126 was received by the Examiner on March 3, 1998.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

After reviewing the Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the subject as follows:

The hearing on Item No. E97CT126 was opened by the Examiner at 11:05 a.m., March 17, 1998, in Hearing Room No. 2, Department of Development and Environmental Services, 900 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Renton, Washington, and closed at 11:09 a.m.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the office of the King County Hearing Examiner.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATION: Having reviewed the record in this matter, the Examiner now makes and enters the following:

FINDINGS:

1. General Information:

Owner:	Peter J. Van Voast, 5336 – 347 <sup>th</sup> Place SE, Fall City, WA 98024
Location:	Same as above
Zoning:	RA10
Acreage:	Property Total: 5.00 acres
	Subject to Application: 4.31 acres
	Recommended: 4.31 acres
STR:	SE-NW-23-24-07
Subject of Request:	Priority Resources:
	Surface water quality buffer area
	Significant plant, wildlife, or salmonid habitat area
	Bonus Categories:
	Bonus surface water quality buffer area
	Contiguous parcels under separate ownership
	Resource restoration

2. The Applicant has provided to the Department a plan for forest restoration and stewardship. Further, the Applicant agrees to implement and comply with the forest stewardship plan. Consequently, the Department modifies its preliminary March 17, 1998 report to the Examiner, recommending 22 public benefit points (instead of 18) for an 80% (instead of 70%) reduction. In addition, the Department also recommends an additional condition of approval which would require compliance with the approved forest stewardship plan.
3. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in the King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner for the March 17, 1997 public hearing are found to be correct and are incorporated herein by this reference. Copies of the said Report will be attached to the copies of this Report submitted to the King County Council.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Approval of current use valuation for 4.31 acres of the subject property, pursuant to the Public Benefit Rating System adopted by King County Ordinance No. 10511, would be consistent with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.
2. Timely application has been made to King County for the current use valuation of the subject property to begin in 1999. Notice of said application was given in the manner required by law.
3. The subject property contains priority open space resources and is entitled to bonus points pursuant to the

King County Public Benefit Rating System, which justify a total award of 22 points. The resulting current use value is 20% of market value for 4.31 acres of the subject property.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the request of Peter J. Van Voast for current use valuation of 20% of market value for 4.31 acres of the subject property, subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall provide to the King County Assessor a legal description, or adequate information to enable the Assessor to develop a legal description, of the improved portion of the property which shall remain assessed at 100% of market value, and the portion of the subject property (4.31 acres) which shall be assessed at its current use valuation.
2. Current use valuation shall be subject to all terms and conditions of RCW 84.34 and King County Code Chapter 20.36, as the same may be amended from time to time, and all regulations and rules duly adopted to implement State law and County ordinances pertaining to current use valuation.
3. The applicant shall sign an agreement which accepts the conditions of approval set forth herein and meets the requirements of WAC 458-30-240. The signed agreement shall be returned to the Office of the King County Hearing Examiner prior to the close of business on December 31, 1998, or within thirty (30) days of transmittal of a proposed agreement to the applicant, whichever is later. The following conditions shall be specifically set forth in the agreement:
  - (1) Failure of the owner to comply with these conditions shall be basis for removal, by King County, of the current use designation, in which case the land shall be subject to the penalty, tax, and interest provisions of RCW 84.34 and assessed at true and fair value. The County Assessor and the Water and Land Resources Division may reevaluate the property to determine whether removal of the open space designation is appropriate. Removal shall follow the process in RCW 84.34.108.
  - (2) Revisions to this agreement may only occur upon mutual written approval of the owner and granting authority.
  - (3) The open space classification for this land will continue as long as it is primarily devoted to and used for the purpose of protecting open space. Classification will be removed if dedication to this purpose ceases to exist. A change in circumstances which diminishes the extent of public benefit from that generally outlined in the Water and Land Resources Division Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner will be cause for removal of the current use assessment classification. It is the owner's responsibility to notify the Assessor of a change in circumstance.
  - (4) When a portion of the open space land is withdrawn or removed from the program, the Water and Land Resources Division and the Assessor shall reevaluate the remaining land to determine its continued qualification under the program. If the remaining portion meets the criteria for priority resources, it may continue under current use taxation.
  - (5) Except as otherwise stated in this agreement, there shall be no alteration of the open

space land or resources. Any alteration may constitute a change of use and subject the property to the additional tax, interest, and penalty provisions of RCW 84.34.080.

"Alteration" means any human-induced action that adversely impacts the existing condition of the open space land or resources including but not limited to the following:

- a. erecting structures;
- b. grading;
- c. filling;
- d. dredging;
- e. channelizing;
- f. modifying land or hydrology for surface water management purposes;
- g. cutting, pruning, limbing or topping, clearing, planting, introducing, relocating or removing vegetation, however, selective cutting may be permitted for firewood;
- h. applying herbicides or pesticides or any hazardous or toxic substance;
- i. discharging pollutants except stormwater;
- j. paving, construction, application of gravel;
- k. storing of equipment, household supplies, play equipment, or compost;
- l. engaging in any other activity that adversely impacts the existing vegetation, hydrology, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or other open space resource.
- m. (Walking, horseback riding, passive recreation or actions taken in conjunction with a resource restoration plan, or other similar activities are permitted.)

- (6) Subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in Section 5, the following uses, activities and alterations are permitted, following receipt of written approval as set forth below:
  - a. In areas which have become infested by noxious weeds, the owner shall submit a control and enhancement plan to the King County Water and Land Resources Division and local jurisdiction for approval prior to removing the weeds.
  - b. In areas invaded by non-native invasive species, replacement with native species or other appropriate vegetation may be allowed subject to approval of an enhancement plan by the King County Water and Land Resources Division.
  - c. Trees posing a hazard to structures or major roads may be removed. Any trees removed must be replaced.
- (7) There shall be no motorized vehicle driving or parking allowed on the open space land with the exception of along driveways.
- (8) Grazing of livestock shall be prohibited on the open space land.
- (9) The resource restoration must be implemented according to the restoration plan either approved by or prepared by the King County Surface Water Management Division. Over the monitoring period, the owner must submit a yearly monitoring report to the Water and Land Resources Division describing the progress and success of the restoration, and including photographs. The report need not be prepared by a biologist.

RECOMMENDED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1998.

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R. S. Titus, Deputy  
King County Hearing Examiner

TRANSMITTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1998, to the parties and interested persons shown on the attached list.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL  
AND ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED**

In order to appeal the recommendation of the Examiner, written notice of appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council with a fee of \$125.00 (check payable to King County Office of Finance) *on or before April 9, 1998*. If a notice of appeal is filed, the original and 6 copies of a written appeal statement specifying the basis for the appeal and argument in support of the appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council *on or before April 16, 1998*. Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal.

Filing requires actual delivery to the Office of the Clerk of the Council, Room 403, King County Courthouse, prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on the date due. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. The Examiner does not have authority to extend the time period unless the Office of the Clerk is not open on the specified closing date, in which event delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

If a written notice of appeal and filing fee are not filed within 14 days calendar days of the date of this report, or if a written appeal statement and argument are not filed within 21 calendar days of the date of this report, the Clerk of the Council shall place a proposed ordinance which implements the Examiner's recommended action on the agenda of the next available Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council may adopt the Examiner's recommendation, may defer action, may refer the matter to a Council committee, or may remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

Action of the Council Final. The action of the Council on a recommendation of the Examiner shall be final and conclusive unless within twenty (20) days from the date of the action an aggrieved party or person applies for a writ of certiorari from the Superior Court in and for the County of King, State of Washington, for the purpose of review of the action taken.

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 1998 PUBLIC HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FILE NO. E97CT126 – PETER J. VAN VOAST:**

R. S. Titus was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Peter J. Van Voast and Kelly Heintz/DNR.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the record:

Exhibit No. 1 through 3	<i>not offered</i>
Exhibit No. 4	Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner for the March 17, 1998 public hearing
Exhibit No. 5	Legal notice to council
Exhibit No. 6	Introductory Ordinance to council
Exhibit No. 7	Affidavit of Publication
Exhibit No. 8	Notification to Applicant of hearing sent
Exhibit No. 9	Application Signed/Notarized
Exhibit No. 10	Legal description
Exhibit No. 11	Legal description of designated open space
Exhibit No. 12	Assessor map
Exhibit No. 13	King County situs report
Exhibit No. 14	King County assessors database
Exhibit No. 15	Site map
Exhibit No. 16	Arcview map

Van Voast/E97CT126

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Exhibit No. 17

Notice of hearing, Office of Hearing Examiner

RST:vam

Attachment

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